WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of new coastal nuclear power stations

4587. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to set up around five new coastal nuclear power stations using high-end reactors of 1,000 MWe and above and the overall capacity of each station could be ramped up to almost 8,000 MWe;

(b) whether 12 member Site-Selection Committee recommended locations for setting up nuclear plants in the country;

(c) whether Government are also considering a proposal to permit firms registered under the Companies Act to build nuclear plants and to allow entry of international players in the energy sector; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Setting up of Light Water Reactors of 1000 MWe capacity and above depends on developments on opening up of international civil nuclear cooperation.

(b) No, Sir. The Committee is evaluating the sites offered by State Governments.

(c) and (d) As per the Atomic Energy Act, only a Government Company can be permitted to set up nuclear power plants. No decision has been taken with regard to companies registered under Companies Act.

Nuclear power stations in the country

4588. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of nuclear power stations in the country and their generation capacity;

(b) the quantity of actual generation;

(c) the reason for the gap if any and the steps taken to ensure full capacity generation;

(d) whether there is scientifically foolproof method of waste disposal management;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There are presently 17 nuclear power reactors in operation in the country with a capacity of 4120 MWe.

(b) The generation in the year 2006-07 was 18801 million units.

(c) All the operating stations have been performing well. Techno-commercial aspects of Renovation and Modernisation of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit-1 (RAPS-1) are being evaluated and Narora Atomic Power Station Unit-1 (NAPS-1) which is currently under Renovation and Modernisation is expected to come on line in first half of 2007-08.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The wastes generated during the normal operation of nuclear power plants are of low activity level. These are appropriately treated, concentrated and immobilized in inert matrices like cement, polymer etc. and stored at the site. The closed fuel cycle approach followed in India leads to significant reduction in the amount of nuclear wastes to be eventually managed. Thus the high level wastes generated during reprocessing of spent fuel are very small in quantity. These are fixed in a glass matrix by a process of vitrification and stored in an interim storage facility before final disposal in a geological repository.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Coastal nuclear power station in Orissa

4589. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up five coastal nuclear power stations;